Section 3:
Boating Law Enforcement Programs

I n support of the California Department of Boating and Waterways' mission to provide leadership in promoting the public's right to safe and enjoyable boating on California waterways, the Enforcement Unit's primary objectives are:

- To provide for adequate boating law enforcement through local agencies
- To ensure that the enforcement of California boating laws is uniform throughout the State

The Enforcement Unit meets these objectives through programs that provide officer training and financial aid to local boating law enforcement agencies.

A. Financial Aid Program (Subvention Program)

The purpose of the Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program is to provide state financial aid to local governmental agencies whose waterways have high usage by transient boaters and an insufficient tax base to fully support a boating safety and enforcement program. The program is intended to augment existing local resources for boating safety and enforcement activities on California waterways.

These funds also support enforcement of state laws, regulations and local ordinances affecting boating activities, vessel inspection, supervision of water

events, search and rescue operations, and recovery of drowned bodies.

During 2006/2007, Cal Boating allocated 10.6 million to 36 counties and two cities for boating law enforcement operations including maintenance, equipment, and personnel costs.

Exhibit III-1 presents a summary of services supported during this period by the financial aid program.

Boating law enforcement officers provide important safety education to the boating public. Cal Boating's partnerships with the law enforcement community provide the department with an excellent resource to help educate and communicate with the recreational boater.

In FY 2006/07, law enforcement officers provided boating safety education to nearly 50,000 vessel operators, primarily by means of public contact and verbal warnings, which act as teaching tools to educate boaters and help prevent accidents.

Exhibit III-1
Services Supported by the 2006/07 Financial Aid Program

Regulation Enforcement	
Verbal Warnings	44,553
Citations	4,316
Physical Arrests	426
Boater Assistance	
Persons Assisted	20,417
Vessels Assisted	4,944
Accident Investigations	299
Search and Rescue Operations	
Searches and Recoveries	739
Education/Safety	
Vessel Inspections	31,534
Organized Boating Event Supervision	233

B. Marine Law Enforcement Training Program

In California, boating law enforcement is performed at the local level. This unique and efficient method of serving the recreational boater can present challenges at times.

To ensure that the boating law is being properly interpreted and enforced, Cal Boating offers an extensive marine law enforcement training program. This program services over 100 public agencies tasked with providing public safety on the water. As a result, boaters can expect uniform law enforcement on waterways throughout the state.

In 2007, Cal Boating conducted 27 Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified classes throughout the state and trained 471 marine patrol officers. Officers learned how to apply a multitude of skills emphasizing their roles of maintaining safety on public waterways. The courses are designed for law enforcement personnel and are taught by law enforcement specialists who bring great expertise and credibility to the training program.

Recent improvement to the Accident Investigation/ Reconstruction (new *Vessel Accident Report* manual) and Boating Intoxication Enforcement (new *Boating Under the Influence* video) continue to keep California on the cutting edge of marine law enforcement training.

The department offers law enforcement training classes in the following areas:

- Basic Boating Safety and Enforcement
- Boating Accident Investigation / Reconstruction
- Boating Intoxication Enforcement
- Boating – Basic Skills Training
- Coastal Piloting and Navigation
- Marine Firefighting
- Personal Watercraft
- Seamanship – Rescue Boat Operations